

The Southwester

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly

May 1998

SERVING SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON, D.C.

FREE!

Amidon Students Go to West Africa

by James Smith-Hill & Carole Early



Adults from L to R: Mrs. Diouf, First lady of Senegal, Hillary Clinton, President Clinton, Mr. Diouf, President of Senegal, Mrs. Hamlette, Principal of Amidon, Mrs. Ferguson, sixth grade teacher, and Mr. Stores, Assistant Counselor with part of the sixth grade - in front of the Dakar Police Department.

Visit President Clinton

The Amidon 6th Grade left on their long awaited trip to Senegal. They had spent many hours learning about all aspects of this West African nation. Natives of the country who work at the World Bank had been at the school teaching the students about the land. The 6th graders were knowledgeable about the traditional life of the region, the religious sites that they would see, Goree Island and the arts & crafts of the area.

A silent auction was held by the U.S. Attorney's Office (they have a big group of volunteers at the school) and the Amidon Elementary School to aid the sixth graders in obtaining funds for their trip.

After all of this, they had to re-schedule the trip & leave on March 29, 1998. Why? They were going to meet with President Clinton on April 2, 1998 at Goree Island.

continued on page 8

Southwest Mall to Become Home for Charter Schools

by Eve Brooks

There's a silver lining to EPA's pull out from the Southwest. The 35,000 foot second floor of the Waterside Mall will soon become the site of the District of Columbia Charter School Incubator, subsidizing the first years of development of new charter schools with low rents. The area which recently housed the EPA staff, will be dismantled and classrooms, library and computer labs will soon take its place.

By fall 1998, over 200 D.C. secondary students will be part of a creative experiment in learning, one which will enrich their lives, providing opportunities rarely available in public schools, by involving the resources and expertise of Southwest residents, local universities, business, public policy think tanks and community groups.

The Mall will be home to the Cesar Chavez Public Policy Charter High School, and The Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School.

Public Policy Charter School

The Caesar Chavez Public Policy Charter will open its doors to 60 ninth grade students and expects to serve 240

continued on page 8



LIGHTS! CAMERAS! ACTION!

A prime-time video of your neighborhood and its future!

FIRST SHOWING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 1998 at 7 P.M. at the SWNA Meeting Seize the date!

The Waterside Mall/Waterfront Task Force of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) and Arena Stage
Invite you to the OLD VAT ROOM at the Arena Stage 6th and M Sts., S.W.

Enjoy refreshments!
Guest Speakers!
Neighborhood Celebrities!
Call the SWNA Office at 554-8560 for more information.

Series I

Waterside Mall Initiative Continues Full Speed Ahead

By Joseph Foote

Southwesters continue to build momentum for a revitalized community a month after the sweeping proposals of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) for a new Town Center at Waterside Mall.

Amid announcements of new tenants for portions of one floor at the Mall, including two charter high schools, Southwest citizens are building on the efforts that raised unprecedented levels of money, brought in the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to study the community's economic potential, and sparked the first major cohesive community undertaking in recent history.

"We've got a lot of momentum, and we're going to keep the ball rolling," said Margaret Feldman, new president of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), the community-wide citizen action organization that is spearheading the Waterside Mall Initiative. "The level

of citizen support for a revitalized Southwest is just amazing."

No Plans Yet

Feldman hastened to point out that no decisions have been made on adopting any plan for Southwest, and none will be adopted until residents have had a chance to study proposals and make their views known. To that end, a major citizen information program has been started and a community-wide meeting on the Waterside Mall Initiative is planned for May 4. Community residents will have additional opportunities to participate in the decision-making process, Feldman said.

continued on page 3

SWNA Election Results Winners of S.W.N.A. Election

Sat., Mar. 28 Near Safeway

OFFICERS:

Pres.- Margaret Feldman
V. Pres.- Emma Ward
Sec.- Jean Macdonald
Treas.- Bob Listou

BOARD MEMBERS:

1st Dist. Rep.:
Perry Klein
Marilyn Killingham
2nd Dist. Rep.:
Claudia Askew
Eve Brooks
Joseph Foote
3rd Dist. Rep.:
Charlotte Brooks
Lonnie Murray
Davlene Renshaw
4th Dist. Rep.:
Herbert Holmes
Gregory Teasley
Burnetta Coles

A representative from the League of Woman Voters helped count the votes.

See photos on page 6

Inside

Merchant's Corner	2
Calendar	2
New Townhouse near Jefferson	3
March SWNA Meeting	3
Letter to the Editor	4
AARP	4
Job Training	4
Beautifying the Waterfront	4
Career Fair	6
Sports	6 & 10
SW Police	8
Art Center at Randall	8
Benjamin Banneker Park	9
Poem	9
Boys Club plays in Florida	10
Roberta Patrick	11
Beverly C. Carpenter	11
Christ Methodist	
Celebrates 35th	11
Blessing of the Fleet	11

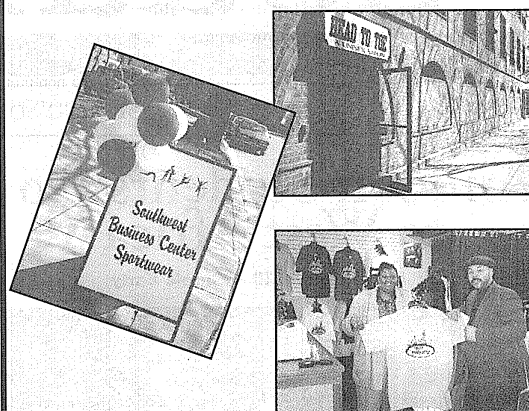
Calendar

April-May 1998

April 23	Thursday	NARFE DC Chapter 2052 1:30pm Southwest Branch Library Wesley Place and K Street SW
April 27	Monday	Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Board 7pm SWNA Office, Waterside Mall
April 28	Tuesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters Club 6:45pm Southwest Branch Library Wesley Place and K Street SW
April 30	Thursday	Southeastern University Career Fair 4pm SEU 501 "I" St. SW
May 2	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club 10am Southwest Branch Library
May 4	Monday	SW Neighborhood Assembly General Meeting 7pm Old Vat Room, Arena Stage 1101 6th St. SW (Maine Ave. entrance)
May 5	Tuesday	First Dist MPD Citizens Advisory Council 7:30pm First District Headquarters 415 Fourth St. SW
May 11	Monday	Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D 7:30pm Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 "I" St. SW
May 12	Tuesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters Club 6:45pm Southwest Branch Library
May 16	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club 10am Southwest Branch Library
May 17	Sunday	Stars of the Future, Showcasing SW Youths, 3-5pm St. Augustine's Church, 6th & M St.s, SW FREE
May 17	Sunday	Blessing of the Fleet - 1 pm - near 6th and Water St. S.W.
May 20	Wednesday	AARP SW Waterfront Chapter #4751 noon St. Matthews Lutheran Church 222 M St. SW
May 26	Tuesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters Club 6:45pm Southwest Branch Library
May 28	Thursday	NARFE DC Chapter 2052 1:30pm Southwest Branch Library

Please submit calendar items to C.W. Hargrave by the first of each month.
202-554-8284.

Merchant's Corner



"The Southwest Business Center" including a sportswear store called "Get Money", a limousine service, and other services has opened at 4th & P Streets S.W. by Ft. McNair. They join "Head to Toe", a longtime neighborhood business. Welcome to Black Diamond Computer, 401 M Street, SW, —they are opening next month. Starting in the next issue, there will be interviews with our advertisers. ■

The Washington Navy Yard's Restoration Advisory Board Announces its Monthly Meeting

Where: Washington Navy Yard
Building 200
Second Floor conference room

When: Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Time: 7:00-9:00 p.m.

All interested members of the public are invited.
Free parking in garage facing Building 200.

For more information call
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The Southwester

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Jeanne MacKenzie Karen Finkel

Drop off your stories on diskette with photos by May 4, in the box behind the counter at the SW Library, 3rd & I SW.

(Submitted photos are the property of The Southwester.)

Note: Prefer stories in Word or Word Perfect.

Email text to: sherrykd@idt.net

Printing by Silver Communications Corp.

The objective of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, a.k.a. SWNA is: to improve the quality of life for all residents of the Southwest; to open to every Southwest resident the wide cultural horizon of modern urban living; to help create rich and equal social, educational and economic opportunities for every boy and girl of the Southwest; to assist in providing the opportunity for gainful employment for every adult resident; to promote development of the aesthetic potential of the Southwest. These objectives shall be pursued without regard to the social, economic and racial barriers that have divided cities in the past.

The following are the guidelines for publication in The Southwester:

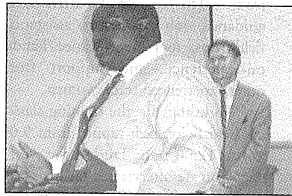
The paper serves as a community bulletin board as well as a vehicle for news stories. Occasional articles pertinent to the city will be printed. Opinion letters should be written to *Letters to The Editor* column. Contributions written by community residents are welcome. Articles should be well written and answer the five newspaper questions: Who, What, Where, When and How. Ads will be accepted only from paying customers, but may be rejected if the contents are of questionable taste.

The editor makes the final decision as to what appears in the paper.

Highlights of Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, SWNA Meeting

Reported by Davelene Renshaw,

District 3 Representative



L: Archie Prioleau, Foundation for Educational Innovation-DC Workforce Readiness Institute **R: Dr. Joseph Drew**, Southeastern University, Family Technology Center

Outgoing President Dr. Marc Weiss presided over the meeting that began with presentation of a \$10,000 check to James Creek residents from a grant for beautification of their property.

\$4.5 Million For S.W.

Dr. Weiss reported on a plan for disbursement of \$71 million in grants and loans by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD) for District revitalization. The Southwest community is expected to receive \$4.5 million of this for programs such as the South Capitol Development Corporation, home-ownership projects in the Syphax area consisting of 12 condominiums and 28 affordable town homes, and possible conversion of a portion of James Creek to home-ownership. In addition, Potomac Development has proposed to build 100 town homes on the 3 acre site, Parcel 76, near Jefferson School and HUD between 7th and 9th streets.

Second Floor of Mall Rent-free

In the very near future, GSA will make the second floor of the Waterside

Mall available, rent-free, to non-profit organizations. Grants to renovate areas on the second floor will be available from DCHD. Altogether, a combination of the charter schools and the training centers plan to offer training and education to approximately 300 students.

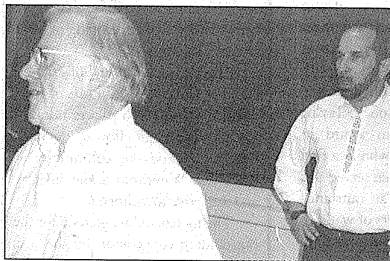
Manna Plans Houses At "Syphax Village"

Several speakers were on the agenda to provide status reports on their projects. Manna, Inc. stated that they are eager to begin the historic preservation of Syphax School & the surrounding land, henceforth renamed "Syphax Village". Manna is reworking the site plan to include open spaces with the 28 town homes by zoning it as "R5B" and will need community support and input when they go before the D.C. Zoning Commission. The SWNA will notify the community when it is time for their support.

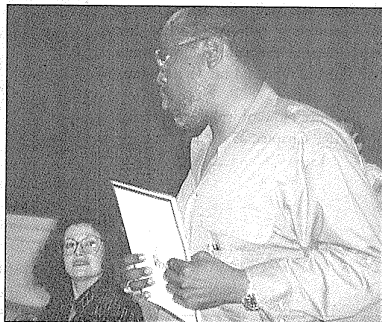
Signs Along M St.

Between now and 2002, the National Capital Planning Commission and Design Research, Incorporated, (NCPC) are looking at ways to implement a "streetscape" and public tourist signage plans for the Maine Avenue and M Street area between 11th St., S.E., and 14th St., S.W., this includes landscaping, trees, street furniture and directional signs and orientation panels (which will also present a history of the Southwest); development will extend to the Southwest Waterfront. Between the present time and 2002 at least 60 new memorials will be installed and additional museum space will be required in

continued on page 6



L: George K. Rothman, President-MANNA **R: Marc Weiss**, Outgoing President, Dr.



L: Mina Marafat, SW Historian & UDC Professor of Architecture **R: David Hamilton**, National Capital Planning Commission

Townhouses to be Built on Parcel 76

As reported at the last Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, 95 townhouses are going to be built on Parcel 76. This land is bounded by 7th, 9th, G Street and the Southwest-Southeast Freeway. It contains over 133,431 square feet (3.1 acres) of vacant land and is currently unzoned. A portion of the property is owned by Challenger Court, Inc. and a portion of the property is owned by the District of

Columbia, administered by the Redevelopment Land Agency (RLA).

Wilkes, Artis, Hedrick & Lane will be filing a zoning application on behalf of their client. After completing the long process, the builders hope to break ground by the end of the year. If you would like additional information, call Phil T. Feola of the law firm at 202/457-7317. ■

ULI contd from page 1

Public Showing of ULI Video

The May 4 meeting will be held at the Arena Stage, which is offering its facilities free as part of a new outreach program to Southwest residents. A video will be shown of the ULI report meeting on March 6 sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton which was held in a Congressional hearing room. Speakers will be presented, and refreshments will be served. All residents of Southwest are urged to attend.

Written Report In A Few Weeks

Also, a detailed written report on ULI proposals for Waterside Mall is being prepared by SWNA's Waterside Mall Task Force, under the leadership of co-chairs Mercedes Sandoval-Beene and Judith Chayes Neiman. The report, available to all Southwesters in a few weeks, will set the current situation at Waterside Mall in Southwest in historical context, review the ULI study process, explain the major ULI proposals, and describe how citizens can become or continue to be involved.

"We want to make sure that everybody has a very clear understanding of the challenges the community faces," Sandoval-Beene said. "If we all see the problems clearly, and agree on solutions, we can accomplish anything we set out to do as a community."

Residents with ideas for, concerns about, or offers to help on the Waterside Mall Initiative can leave a message for Sandoval-Beene or Neiman on the SWNA office phone at 202-554-8560. All comments will be considered, and volunteers are welcome. Much work remains to be done in the next few months.

SWNA Board Discussion

The new SWNA Board of Directors held a spirited discussion at its organizational meeting on April 6, at which time it voted to continue the Task Force and endorsed Sandoval-Beene and Neiman as co-chairs. Their appointments are subject to approval by the full membership at the May 4 Assembly community meeting in the Old Vat Room at Arena Stage.

Herbert Miller Chairs Task Force

In other developments, city officials are organizing an action task force under the chairmanship of prominent develop-

er Herbert Miller to coordinate federal and city support for the Southwest revitalization effort. Staff director of the task force is Marc Weiss, a long-time officer of SWNA and resident of Southwest. Membership of the task force is expected to include a number of Southwesters.

EPA Gradually Leaving Mall

All this activity was occasioned by the announcement of the Environmental Protection Agency that it will move its 4,500 employees out of Waterside Mall by the year 2002. With no large replacement tenant on the horizon, the Mall could become deserted, stores there would suffer, and the core of Southwest could decay.

Led by SWNA, Southwesters supported an initiative to bring in a panel of national experts selected by ULI, which is a widely recognized nonprofit think tank on urban economic development. Alarm about the future of Waterside Mall was first sounded by Feldman, who proposed establishment of the Waterside Mall Task Force and became its first chair. The subsequent Waterside Mall Initiative and fundraising (more than \$160,000 raised in a few weeks!) were led by then SWNA president Marc Weiss. At its March membership meeting, when Weiss stepped down as president, SWNA gave him a plaque honoring his service to Southwest as a "citizen activist" over the past several years.

The ULI panel spent a week in early March studying Southwest from the waterfront through Waterside Mall to the M Street Corridor to South Capitol Street and on to the Navy Yard. Reporting last month, the panel foresaw a bright economic future for Southwest. The panel proposed increased educational and job opportunities for local residents, a rejuvenated Mall that would be recast as a Town Center with Fourth Street reopened, and "connections" that would link Southwest again with the powerful economic activity of the city.

A draft of the final ULI report is now in preliminary form and copies of the final report will be made available to the community sometime in later spring or early summer. Information on the ULI report process, on where community funds have been spent, and on SWNA is available at the SWNA office in Waterside Mall. ■

Letter to the Editor:

We the undersigned SW residents wish to express our disappointment with the April Southwester's handling of its story on the recommendations by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) for our neighborhood's revitalization. Relegation of this big story to page two is hard to reconcile with its importance and the level of community support for this study in contribution of money and time of a great many from the Southwest and elsewhere, both public and private.

The upshot: Public confusion and loss of momentum and backing for the revitalization effort. Clearly, something is seriously amiss. The Southwester is a laudable volunteer activity, to be sure, but the stakes are too high for our community to waste this resource. It should provide full and accurate information, reader input and proper perspective on the redevelopment/implementation efforts.

Southwest deserves no less. We have unmatched assets: Location, unique history and wonderful neighborhood diversity. Now, we must build total community support and strong momentum for our needed revitalization. The Southwester also must be a constant vehicle to this end. There is no time to lose.

Michael Benson, Sylvia Rhodes Ziehl, Bernard Feiner, Olinda Gonzales, Edward Fry, Mark W. McCullough, Maurice M. Cook, Sara-Ann Buckley, Shirley N. Cornwell, Edith Poetzschke, Anatole M. Shapiro, Grace Ferrill, Muriel Kindler, Isabella B. Gelletich, Margaret H. Brinckman, Ernest H. Land, Susan Hamilton, Robert Simpson, Jurgan Pohly, Ann Furey, Charles F. Eason

Response to Letter to the Editor:

Couldn't agree with you more. From now on, there will be a continuing series (on the front page) which will update readers about Waterside Mall and the Waterfront.

Women's Rights Movement Celebrated by AARP

Southwest/Waterfront Chapter 4751-D American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the Women's Right Movement (1848-1998). Neighborhood workers were feted for their untiring and dedicated activities in pursuing the right of women active in neighborhood endeavors.

Alexine Clement Jackson, National YWCA President, traced the history of this Woman's organization from the late 19th century as being in the forefront of

the Women's Rights Movement. Their stand for women's right to vote; fighting for job equality; residences for women; protection against violence; adequate research to find cures for illnesses that were unique to women. YWCA centers are located all over the world to service women and girls in their search for a healthy body, mind and spirit.

Marguerite Gilstrap Honored

In appreciation of our neighbors who have made a difference in community unity, Phoebe Layton presented the 1998 Women's History Award to Marguerite Gilstrap, whose keen mind and acute sense of history, can vividly recall the building of



Awardees: L to R, Jenny Liu, Mary Ann Bailer, Marguerite Gilstrap, Lois Laster, and Ethel James Williams, Coordinator



Presenter: L to R, Phoebe Layton, Beryl Rice, Arthurine Taylor and Peggy Jackson



L to R: Vernice Howard, President, AARP chapter; Alexine Clement Jackson, National President, YWCA; Featured Speaker

Training Programs and Workshops in the Washington Area

(The Southwester plans to publish training opportunities each month. Most of these programs are free, but a few others will have costs associated with tuition or books. Check each listing for cost...if any).

Job Training for Age 22 and up

Training opportunities are available through the DC Office of Employment Services, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Training and orientation is free. Openings for training are on a first-come-first-served basis. You must be 22 years old or older. To set up an orientation appointment call 673-6997 or visit their office at 1000 U Street, NW at the U Street/Cardozo metro stop.

Training classes include the following:

- Clerical
- Nursing Assistant
- Computer applications
- Printing
- Medical Records Clerk
- Sales Representative
- Custodial/Janitorial
- On-the-job training is available for construction work and security work.

Non-traditional Careers For Women

The YWCA is offering FREE TRAINING FOR WOMEN in Non-Traditional Careers. Training classes are for three to four weeks and prepare you for jobs in construction, highway maintenance, commercial driving, carpentry, surveying, heavy equipment operating, computer repair and elec-

tronics. The program also offers career guidance, job placement assistance, field trips, tool identification/hands-on-experience, and support from other experienced tradeswomen.

Workshops for the training classes are held twice each month from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. During the workshop you are interviewed for qualifications and placement into the training programs. The next workshop is April 22, Wednesday. You must call in advance of the workshop to reserve your seat.

For information on the next available workshop call Susan Berger or Camile Comier at 626-0700, extension 21, or visit their office at 624 9th Street, NW (2nd floor) at the Gallery Place metro stop.

Computer Training For Seniors

BASIC COMPUTER WORKSHOPS in understanding how computers work are available for senior adults. There will be a lecture, demonstrations and hands-on practice on Fridays from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. The workshop is free. Call to register for one of the following sessions — April 24, May 2, May 22, June 5, or June 19. Training will be held at the Martin Luther King Memorial Library at 901 G Street, NW (room 215) at the Gallery Place metro stop. Phone

the southwest community, its agencies, buildings and personalities.

Bailer, Laster, Liu Recognized

Peggy Jackson presented an award to Mary Ann Bailer, for her extensive work as teacher, group leader, and volunteer physical education director. Working with young and old alike.

Arthurine Taylor presented an award to Lois Laster who as a Red Cross Warden served this country in an outstanding way in overseas conflicts of war.

Beryl Rice presented an award to Jenny Liu, owner and manager of Jenny's Chinese Restaurant located in the Waterside Mall. She participates in all community endeavors, opens her establishment for community events and donates time and money for community needs.

Vernice Howard is the President of the AARP Chapter. ■

Waterfront Beautification Continues

Damien Buckley and others on the SW Waterfront thank those who responded to the invitation in the last issue of the Southwester to help beautify our waterfront. By the time you read this issue you will be able to see bright flower baskets hanging in front of the restaurants.

Also the southern end of 7th and 9th Streets has received loads of fresh soil and planted with pachysandra.

This is a major effort by the business people and our community to make the Waterfront more inviting and attractive to visitors.

The merchants are grateful for the outstanding cooperation by the staff of Councilman Jack Evan's office in facilitating these plans.

More volunteers and funds are needed to complete the project which will eventually include the banners portrayed in the April issue. One of the goals is to create new color and attractiveness without adding commercial advertising.

If you wish to contribute some volunteer hours, gather eight to ten people who can give at least two hours of their time and call Joan Tierney at 554-2020 to make arrangements to participate. ■

Jenny's

All You Can Eat Lunch Buffet

\$6.95

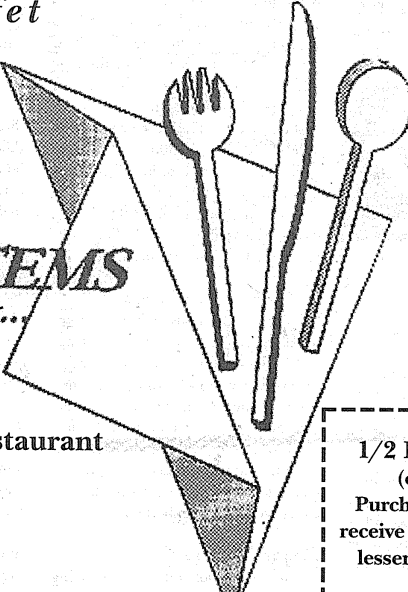
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SWNA Meeting *contd from page 3*

D.C. During this interim, the U.S. Navy is expected to transfer more than 4,000 new employees into the Washington Navy Yard and the S.E. Federal Center. To accomplish these goals, the NCPD plans to form a partnership with federal and private developers, and to include the D.C. Department of Public Works as the third partner.



Principal Irasema Salcido of the Cesar Chavez Charter School

Schools, Training Centers At Mall

By Summer, the Washington Math Science Technology Charter High School, as well as the Cesar Chavez Public Policy Charter School will be moving into the second floor of the Mall. Initially, both schools will have operational hours from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., five days weekly. (See other article on the Charter Schools for phone numbers). Early this fall, under the

auspices of the Foundation for Educational Innovation (FEI) and Southeastern University, two training centers will be established on the second floor of the Mall. The D. C. Workforce Readiness Institute will open a training facility which can help provide a trained workforce to the D.C., Northern Virginia and Maryland job markets, which are presently in need of workers. The Southwest Family Technology Center will be based upon math, science, reading and writing; to include computer skills training. These training facilities expect to occupy 40,000 square feet of mall space; they plan to initially employ approximately 30 people, their hours will be from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., five days weekly (call 301-499-1570 or 202-628-6659 for more information).

New Faces in S.W. Police

Two new additions to the police force in the Southwest are Cmdr. McManus and Lt. Pamela Simms who is replacing Lt. Beverly Medlock who is currently employed by the Smithsonian Institute. The Southwest community looks forward to working with Cmdr. McManus and Lt. Simms and wishes to express its gratitude to Lt. Medlock for her dedicated service to the neighborhood.

Plaque For Weiss

In appreciation for his outstanding



Dr. Marc Weiss receiving award from Vice President Emma Ward

efforts and community service over the past years, the SWNA Vice-president, Emma Ward presented Dr. Weiss with a plaque.

Words cannot express our gratitude to Dr. Weiss; without his leadership and direction the Urban Land Institute (ULI) panel would not have come to Southwest and we would not be anticipating future neighborhood improvements.

New officers and District Representatives for the SWNA Board were installed by Thelma Jones, SWNA Elections Committee Chair. After the business of the meeting and the swearing-in, refreshments and door prizes which were donated by Ms. Jones, were enjoyed by all.

ULI Video Mon. May 4

Everyone is cordially invited to attend the next meeting of the SWNA, Monday, May 4, Arena Stage, at 7:00 p.m. The program will consist of excerpts from the video of the ULI community briefing with a discussion of the draft report. ■

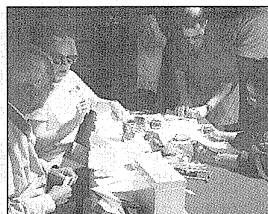
Career Fair St SEU Open To Community

Mark your calendar. Southeastern University will host their Annual Career Fair Thursday, April 30, 1998 Hours: 4pm-7pm

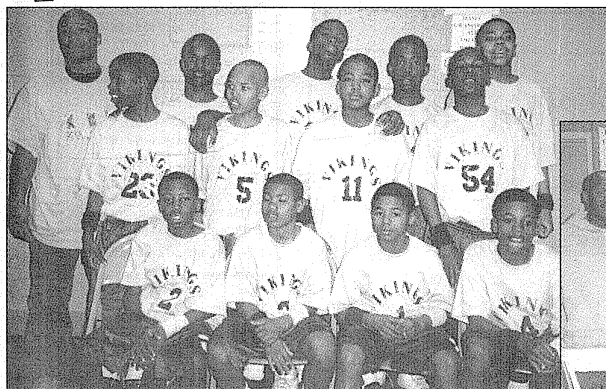
The Fair will take place at the University, located on the corner of 6th and I Streets (501 I Street, SW). The community at large is welcome.

There will be an Employer Directory available beginning April 1, 1998. It will list all participating employer companies and the jobs for which they will be recruiting at the Fair. You can stop by the SEU Career Ctr. to get a copy of the Directory.

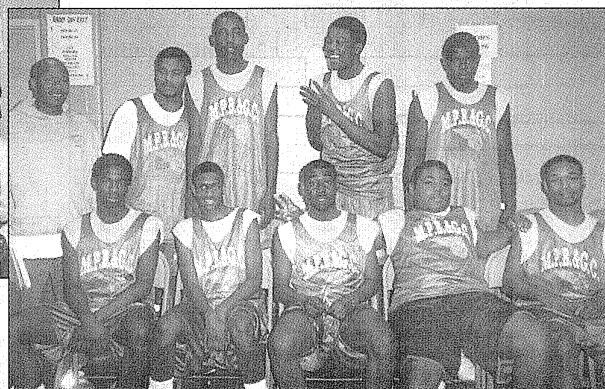
If you need help in developing a resume or you have any other career questions, please feel free to contact Ms. Leah Joppy at (202) 488-8162, X250. ■

Voting at SWNA Elections

Jack McCarthy, Apple Tree Institute for Education Innovation, Public Charter School Incubator at Waterside Mall

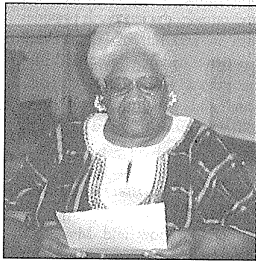
Sports

Club #4 Metropolitan Police Boys and Girls Club's 12 and under Division Champion basketball team, with a record of 11 wins and 1 loss. Front row: (L to R) J Thomas, L. Sturgis, A. Knight, K. Cade Second row (L to R) V. Millhouse, K. Allen, D. Hines, J. Hopkins, Back row (L to R) Coach T. Parry, B. Payne, D. Toney, G. Randolph, D. Duncan (Not shown are R. Ray and assistant coach R. Carter)

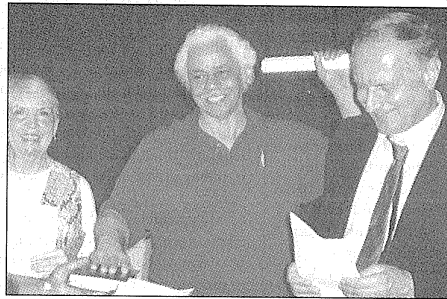


MPB&G Club #4 age 16 and under basketball team Front row (L to R) G. Head, R. Thomas, A. Gillis, J. Brawner, H. Keels 2nd row (L to R) Coach T. Parry, A. Simms, W. Tillman, E. Long, D. Gamble (Not shown - M. Coleman, and assistant coach R. Carter)

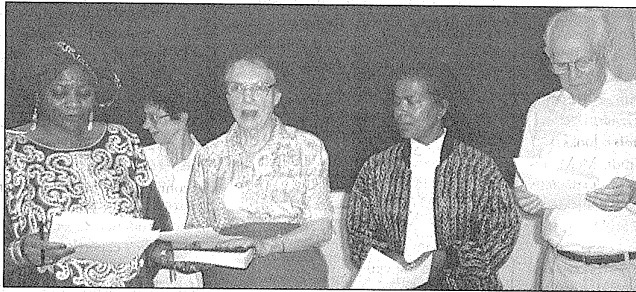
New SWNA Board Swearing In



Marilyn Killingham, 1st district representative



L-R: Davie Renshaw, 3rd district representative, **Lonnie Murray**, 3rd district representative & **Dr. Perry Klein**, 1st district representative



Thelma Jones, Secretary **Jean Macdonald**, President **Margaret Feldman**, V.P. **Emma Ward**, Treasurer **Bob Listou**



Claudia Askew, 2nd district; **Joseph Foote**, 2nd district, **Gregory Teasley**



Eric Smith, director Higher Aspirations Academy meets president **Margaret Feldman**



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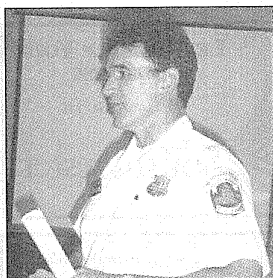
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"Theft Alert" Signs, Citizens Guide by SW Police by Skip Coburn



Commander William P. McManus -
1st District

One of the most recent initiatives reported by the First District Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) involves a campaign against "theft from autos." While we have several initiatives going, the most notable is our successful effort to get the Department of Public Works to make and post signs in selected "high theft" areas to alert citizens to the danger. These signs will say something like "THEFT ALERT. WARNING: DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES IN YOUR VEHICLE."

The first test area for these signs is the "club zone" in Southeast between South Capital and New Jersey, and "I" Street and "M" Street SE. We are also supporting the police department's effort to change "I" street between South Capital and New Jersey SE to ONE WAY between the hours of 10 pm and 5 am. This will help solve

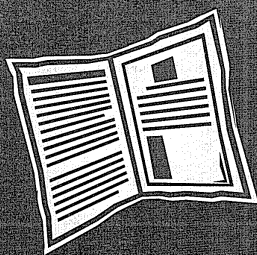
huge "club zone" traffic jams late at night.

Citizens Guide

We are publishing an update of our "Citizen's Guide to the First District CAC." It lists the names and phone numbers of all 1D Captains, Lieutenants, PSA Sergeants, and officers; members of the City Council, members of the School Board, and 55 most frequently needed numbers in the Department of Public Works.

Anyone wishing to join our CAC, desiring a copy of this guide to city services, or needing more information on our 1D Citizens Advisory Council can give the Chairman, Skip Coburn, a call at (202) 483-1925, or email him at scoburn@monumental.com. If you have an issue you would like to bring to our attention in writing, our address is: First District Citizens Advisory Council, First District Headquarters, 415 4th Street, SW, Washington DC 20024.

(The First District Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) is dedicated to assisting the police in achieving its goals of reducing crime and enhancing neighborhood safety. We also serve as a forum to bring matters of citizen concern to the attention of the First District Commander and the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department. We usually meet the 1st Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at First District Headquarters, 415 4th St SW.) ■



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ART CENTER

If you want to have an art center in SW Washington, DC, now is the time to show your support. There will be an Open House at the former Randall Junior High School, 651 St., SW on Wednesday, May 6 from 5 - 8pm. Tour of the building is from 5-7pm. Speakers will be at 7pm - There will be entertainment and light refreshments. R.S.V.P. to Bill Wooby at 202/479-2572. ■

Amidon contd from page 1

They arrived back in the States on April 5, 1998. When the students were asked about the most memorable events of the trip, the answer was the kids had seen President Clinton and President Diouf, the President of Senegal. Another highpoint was seeing Rev. Jesse Jackson.

James Smith, a six grade student says that Africa is a great continent. James says, "Kids in Africa are very friendly. The only thing they want to do is play with you. Also in Senegal you see horses pulling carts instead of taxi cabs. Also, there are no street lights, and you can park on the sidewalk. Once you arrive in Africa, people will say welcome home!" ■

Charter Schools contd from page 1

ninth to twelfth graders in four years. As Isasema Salcido, who has served as Vice Principal and will be the principal of the school explains, the school will add public policy to the curriculum, devoting Fridays to public policy presentations, and projects. The plans call for keeping the school open to 7 pm each evening and offering Saturday instruction. Each student will be required to complete an internship in public policy in his or her senior year.

The school will offer mentors to each student, tutors and additional help after school, on week-ends and in the summer. Each student will be expected to complete one college level course before graduation. The Chavez School is developing strong linkages to major policy think tanks (Brookings, Urban Institute and The Heritage Foundation) and universities with active public policy departments.

Math, Science, Technology Charter School

The Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School is the product of a partnership of the Frank W. Ballou Math Science Technology Academy, the District of Columbia Potential National Merit Program and the Apple Tree Institute. The Ballou Academy, led by Dr. Mary Johnson, was created as a school within a school in 1994, and provides 150

District students with a superior secondary education, emphasizing analytical reasoning, integrated instruction, extended study of biotechnology, space science and environmental sciences. It provides both in and out of school work experience, adding resources from the private foundations, corporations and government agencies, and will grow to serve 400 students.

Students, Volunteers Needed by May 15

Between now and May 15th The Cesar Chavez School is recruiting city wide and in the Southwest for 60 incoming 9th graders. They seek, students who have a desire to understand and act on public issues and problems.

While academic or other competitive standards to acceptance can not be imposed, they do seek students who are prepared to work in the rigorous curriculum and are focused on college. If there are more applicants than places, the students will be selected by a lottery. Volunteers are needed from Southwest residents who want to mentor students, tutor, or provide public policy expertise.

For more information on the Cesar Chavez School call 202-675-3067. For information on the Math and Science Technology School call Apple Tree Institute at 202-775-5826.

History of Charter Schools In D.C.

The District of Columbia experiment with charter schools emanates from the 1995 Congressional approval of the D.C. Education Reform Act. Charter schools are publicly approved and financed experimental schools, enhanced by additional resources from corporations, foundations and other supporting institutions. The charter school movement gives citizens and faculty the opportunity to use their creative resources to provide high quality education, similar to that at private schools. Free of many of the constraints of working within the bureaucracy of big city school districts, the charter schools in Massachusetts, California and Arizona have been found to improve the quality of public education. But because they are not housed in the public schools, they face the heavy costs of supporting the school facility in which they are located.

Generally, the school building adds an additional 15% to the budget of these struggling new institutions. Because the Federal government is subsidizing half the

cost of rent in the space they have vacated in Waterside Mall for the next five years, the Mall is a particularly good location for incubating new schools, until they have developed the stability to finance their own facilities.

Learning from the difficulties in one early D.C. charter school, the District now requires each new school to meet clear "accountability criteria." Twenty new charter schools are scheduled to open this year. Both SW schools have enjoyed the technical support of the Apple Tree Institute for Education Innovation, a non-profit organization whose mission is to increase the supply of effective schools through innovations, which brings a proven track record in assembling resources needed to create community-based schools that provide superior education. Both schools will be academically rigorous, with a college preparatory focus and will base their curricula on the Modern Red School House model, which requires students to complete interdisciplinary units and to pass subject exams before obtaining a high diploma. ■

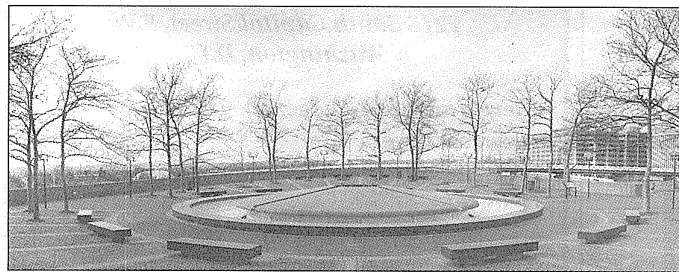
Benjamin Banneker Gets Some Modern-Day Recognition

by Carole Early

Thanks to two women, Congressman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Peggy Seats, president of the Washington Interdependence Council, Benjamin Banneker is on the road to having a memorial in his honor constructed on federal parkland.

Benjamin Banneker, 1731-1806, was the black free man who played a very important and critical role in the final city plan for our nation's capital city. Benjamin Banneker, a Marylander who was largely self-taught, was a surveyor, astronomer, mathematician, among many other

talents. He is often referred to as "America's First Black Man of Science."



talents. He is often referred to as "America's First Black Man of Science."

In 1791, President George Washington selected Major Pierre L'Enfant, a Frenchman, to lay out the streets, public buildings, and parks of the new District of Columbia. At the urging of Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Banneker was selected to be L'Enfant's assistant and to do the surveying. He also assisted Major Andrew Ellicott in surveying the boundaries of the District of Columbia. After disagreements with L'Enfant, President Washington dismissed him. L'Enfant departed and took his plans with him. It was through Banneker's knowledge of the plans, mainly from his memory, that Banneker was able to reconstruct the plans which resulted in today's street, parks, and locations of the public buildings.

Today, in Washington, DC, there is but one small park dedicated to the memory and accomplishments of Benjamin Banneker. Called Benjamin Banneker Park and sometimes referred to as Benjamin Banneker Circle, it is located at the south end of the Pierre L'Enfant Promenade which begins at Independence Ave., SW. The park sits on a small bluff overlooking the Southwest Waterfront. The promenade is the main artery into the L'Enfant Plaza complex in Southwest Washington.

The writer of this article, after learning of the interest and efforts of Ms. Seats in establishing a more visible and meaningful tribute to Benjamin Banneker, conducted an informal sur-

vey to determine how many people in Washington were aware of the present Benjamin Banneker Park. It turned out that only 20 percent of the people surveyed were aware of the circle's existence and the important role Banneker had played in the initial development of the city.

Peggy Seats, who later founded and became president of the Washington Interdependence Council, WIC, often visited the circle to sit and meditate. She found a personal refuge in the scenic beauty of the panoramic waterfront retreat.

Ms. Seats founded WIC in 1996.

It is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advocacy of "true diversity" within the American culture. Its aim is to illustrate how all citizens can work together to creatively implement programs of diversity within our social, civic, public, and private culture. The council elected to focus on a public campaign to erect a monument to Mr. Banneker as an illustration of these goals.

Congresswoman Norton introduced House of Representatives Bill 3499 to legally authorize the Washington Interdependence Council to generate funds necessary to construct the memorial. The preliminary estimates are \$7 million to upgrade the present Benjamin Banneker Park to a more befitting memorial. It took nearly two years of hard work to get the bill introduced by generating the grassroots momentum for the memorial and to form partnerships with social, civic, political, and now, corporate interests for this initiative.

The Washington Interdependence Council, the numerous private and public interests, and the citizens of the United States must now work to voice a public mandate to our elected officials that the memorial to Mr. Benjamin Banneker be developed. Through this memorial, Mr. Banneker will receive his rightful place of honor among the capital's founding fathers.

Last November, Benjamin Banneker Circle was rededicated. New signs were unveiled, a chorus from Banneker School sang, and the winner of an essay contest delivered his work on the life of Mr. Banneker.

A proclamation from the mayor's

office and another from the District of Columbia City Council paid homage to the extraordinary legacy of Mr. Banneker. Ms. Seats announced that the Washington Interdependence Council would proceed in working to further upgrade the site of Benjamin Banneker Park to a monument replete with a statue of Mr. Banneker, a large public clock, improved lighting, benches, symbolic astronomical art, informational kiosks, and a souvenir and gift shop.

Mayor Marion Barry recently commented that, "Truly in a time of few popular national heroes, Benjamin Banneker's legacy should be heralded." He was joined in his sentiments by other public leaders such as Ward Two City Councilman Jack Evans. He wrote the Washington Interdependence Council to say, "Again, I am proud to salute Benjamin Banneker and wholeheartedly thank you for your efforts and

commitment to recognize and honor him."

WIC urges American citizens to write, call, e-mail, fax, and visit our elected officials to urge them to expeditiously pass HR Bill 3499 authorizing the erection of a monument honoring one of the founding designers of the nation's capital, Benjamin Banneker.

Ms. Seats can be reached at 202-387-3380 for more information. If you wish to make a donation or become a member, the address is 2020 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 225, Washington, DC 20006. The Washington Interdependence Council is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. ■

One Nice Elevator Ride

*He always smiled
Tipped his hat
And said, "Good day to you, Miss"
He did not know it
Cause I did not show it
But I dearly loved treatment like this*

*We were leaving one day
At the exact same time
When I had what you might call some
strange luck
With no other passengers but him and
me
Fate must have intervened, you see
Causing the elevator we were sharing
to get stuck*

*I was about to get upset
When something said to me
Girl, don't be a stupid dunce
This may be your chance
For a little romance
And it may not happen but once*

*He appeared calm
I decided to act
Nearly swooning I said, "Oh Dear."
He said, "Don't you worry about a
thing
Let's give this emergency button a ring
Somehow we will get out of here."*

*I moved a little closer to him
He didn't seem to mind at all
So I grabbed and held on to his hand
When he kindly hugged me nice and
tight
Assuring me that everything was all
right
I knew that I had found a very nice
man*

*As we waited for the elevator to move
He began talking to me
He said, "I've been wanting to speak
privately with you
I am a Christian man, single and free
Would you please go out with me
We can do anything that you want to
do."*

*That was all I needed
From that day to this
We have never let each other be alone
Thank God that I had the good luck
To be on that elevator when it got
stuck
The same time this hat-tipping, smiling,
gentleman got on.*

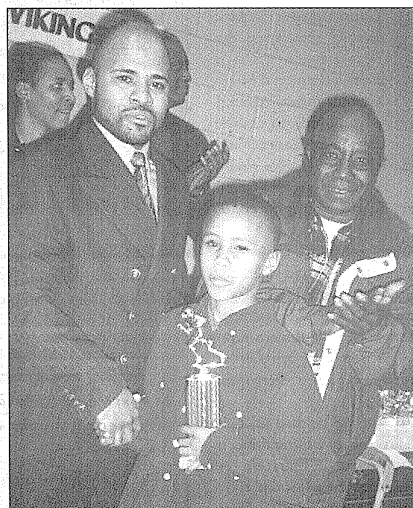
copr., Margaret H. Oliver, 2/98

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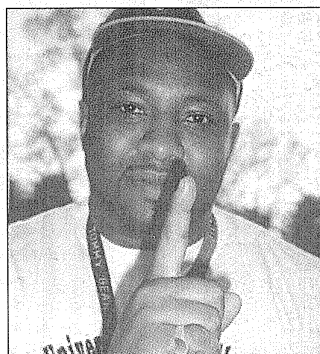
Sports



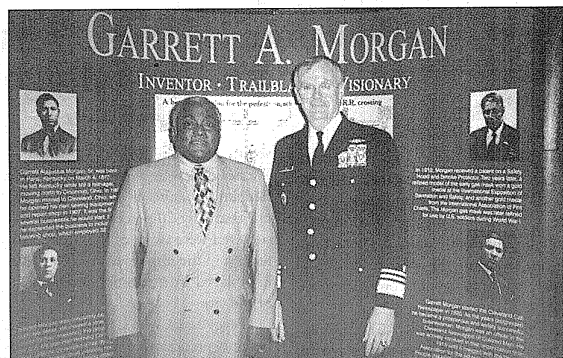
Parents are seeing off the 10 year olds of the Club #4 basketball team representing Washington, D.C. at the Police Athletic League tournament in Florida. Teams from Detroit, Los Angeles and other major cities competed. Results were not known as The Southwester went to press.



Ham Johnson, right, trainer of his son World Champion boxer Mark Johnson, presented the awards at awards night at MPB&G Club #4. Shown with him are George Washington, football MVP, and his coach.



Alvin Hudgens, director of MPB&G Club #4, drove the van to Jacksonville, Fla. with the 10 and under basketball team.



The Coast Guard had a display at Anthony Bowen Elementary School honoring Garrett A. Morgan, a successful inventor of the first true traffic signal which was patented in 1923.

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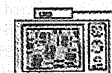
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Ms. Roberta Patrick—A Caring Individual

by Gloria Hamilton

When you enter the Southwest Community House, you would think that you were visiting someone's home. You feel very welcome. After passing the Reception Desk, you go upstairs to your left. Sitting back in her little office is Roberta Patrick. She is doing one of her many tasks. Maybe she's talking on the phone or talking to a client or trying to find someone a job.

Life at the SWCH can become hectic. Sometimes, you wouldn't know about this chaos while sitting with Ms. Patrick in her office. She has the habit of making you and your problem first priority. I've been downstairs and seen people enter her office with a "I don't know what I'm going to do" look and when they return downstairs that face has turned into a "I'm Satisfied" look.

Mr. Rick Bardach, the former executive director of the House has retired and will concentrate his attention on the After-school Tutoring Program which is housed at Anthony Bowen School. So this makes life at SWCH even busier for Ms. Patrick.

In the course of one day, Ms. Patrick can be found helping SWCH clients in many different locales.

- She takes people to various stores to cash food stamps. She waits for them until they are ready to leave.
- If you have a job interview, she takes



Ms. Patrick helping with Christmas toys.

you there and waits for you.

- When people have to go to Court, Ms. Patrick takes them there and gives them her support.
- If a SW resident wants to attend a wake or funeral, she's ready to take them and to wait for them.

She has really been a role model for my family and myself. She has encouraged my oldest daughter to be patient and understanding while raising a foster daughter. She has encouraged my youngest daughter to not let anything stand in her way while pursuing her college degree. And myself, every time I get stuck, she's right there to give me a push.

Her co-worker, Ms. Delores Mack said that she has learned many things working with Ms. Patrick and is still learning. The two are co-workers and very close friends.

Hats off to you - Ms. Patrick, from the people and the community. ■

Blessing of the Fleet

Sun. May 17, 1pm

The 23rd Blessing of the Fleet, sponsored by the Washington Waterfront Association in cooperation with the Potomac River Yacht Clubs Association, will be held on Sunday, May 17th on the Washington Channel, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Best viewing is along the seawall from the Municipal Pier, 550 Water Street SW, or from across the river in East Potomac Park.

Ceremonies begin with the presentation of colors at Gangplank marina, 600 Water Street, followed by the traditional laying of a wreath in memory of boaters who have died during the past year. Then, as the cannon sounds, the parade of boats representing yacht

clubs and marinas up and down the Potomac will pass by the stand at Gangplank to be blessed by attending clergy and judged for the best in a number of categories, i.e., sailboat, motorboat, houseboat.

This year's theme is "Welcome to the World's Boats, Big and Small." To recognize the tradition of blessing the fleet, which originated in the Mediterranean, a prize will be given to the best decorated in this decor. The organizers hope this day, which traditionally marks the opening of the boating season, will include boats of every size and description. For more information Contact: Mark Viehoever, 202/886-3556 (pager). ■

Beverly C. Carpenter,

Amidon Elementary School art teacher received an Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. Seventeen other educators from the Washington area were also recipients. Donald E. Graham, publisher of The Post, called the teachers "really remarkable."

The awards, which have been around for 15 years, include a \$3,000 check and a decorative Steuben apple. ■

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth and Eye Streets, SW

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9-11 AM

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Christ Methodist 35th Anniversary

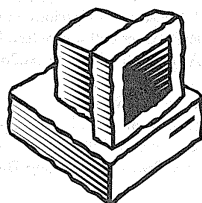
On Sunday, April 26, 1998, Christ United Methodist Church will celebrate 35 years of worship in Southwest D.C. We invite you to come and share out joy.

The Church is located at 4th and Eye Streets, S.W. The service will start at 11:00 a.m., Pastor Esther Holiman presiding. Former pastor Reverend Carroll Yingling will deliver the Anniversary sermon. Other former pastors, Reverend Don Bruce and Reverend Kathryn B. Moore are expected to participate.

There will be a sit down luncheon immediately following the worship service. For more information call the church at 554-9117. Wally Snyder and Madeline Bridges are 35th Anniversary Coordinators. ■

S.W. Library Gets New Telephone, Computer Systems

The S.W. Branch Library at Wesley Place and I Street, S.W., is being wired for a new telephone and computer system. They are currently seeking a reader advisor (librarian) to assist the head librarian.



Jesus said:

All teachers of the Law who become disciples of God's Way are like the homeowners who take new and old things out of their storage rooms. Matthew 13:52

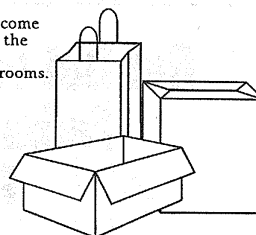
Come, reflect on what Jesus meant...

Parking Lot Sale*
Saturday, May 9
9 AM - 2PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Seeking God's truth in everyday life.
400 I St SW (across from Amidon) 484-7700
Revs. Brian & Ruth Hamilton, Co-Pastors
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

*All proceeds raised by the church support mission outreach in the neighborhood. For \$10 you may rent a space to sell your own items. Call the office to reserve your space.



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It's looking good! Enormous first floor unit that has been used as a doctor's office has been renovated. Use it as a spacious luxury residence or use it for an office. Lots of glass and architectural interest; 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 private entrances. Two parking spaces. \$99,900 to purchase or \$1200 to rent. Parking is extra. If you saw it before you need to come back and see it now!

RIVER PARK

Spectacular! No expense spared in crown moldings, kitchen appliances, tile, wallpaper and paint in this jr. 1 bedroom. Looks like a magazine ad! \$600 (approx) pays mortgage, all utilities, taxes and coop fee. Swimming pool, hobby rooms, exercise room & laundry plus walking distance to metro. Asking \$29,000.

Spic and Span. JR 1 bedroom. Lots of space for this inexpensive unit. Newly painted and the floors have been refinished. All you need to do is move in. \$520 (approx) pays for everything. 10% down. \$20,000. Monthly payment is cheaper than rent.

Outstanding New Listing. \$610 a month pays for everything except your telephone. 1 bedroom with a fabulous balcony with sliding glass doors (year round use). Unit has been reconfigured so it has mucho closet space. Extremely pleasant and inviting. Asking \$28,900.

EDGEWATER

410 O Street, S. W. Bigger than a house. This condo has it all. 2 massive bedrooms each with its own bath; enormous living room and a defined dining area. Kitchen has been upgraded. Hardwood floors, garage parking space included in sales price, extra storage and a wonderful balcony with a water view. Swimming pool privileges at Riverside. Lovely small complex steps to the water. \$98,000

CAPITOL HILL

Potomac Metro! Brand new listing of the sweetest 2 bedroom house you've ever seen. Ultra expensive built in bookcases, fireplace, wood floors, gorgeous garden. Everything is perfect and pretty in this house. Asking \$129,900. 1% down may be possible if you're a 1st time homebuyer.



TIPS FOR HOMEBUYERS:

If you're a 1st time homebuyer in the District you may be eligible for the \$5000 federal income tax credit. Also, if your salary is in the lower ranges you may be eligible for the D. C. Tax Abatement Program which excuses you from paying D. C. property taxes for several years. Keep in mind that there are lots of financing programs which require you to only put 1 or 3% down and will permit sellers to help with your closing costs.

E-mail: shanbury@erols.com

Get Out From Under your Landlord and Let the Federal Government Give YOU a Hand! First Time Homebuyer Credit!

771 Delaware Ave.—SW CHERRY BLOSSOMS at your door!! Fantastic living room over 33 feet long! Separate dining room. Upgraded kitchen, stove, refrigerator, washer/dryer and furnace create a worry free home! 2br, 1.5 ba and assigned parking complete the comfort scene. \$133,500. HAROLD SAUNDERS (202) 488-4444 or (202) 546-7000 ext. 250.

1301-1311 Delaware Avenue—SW Elegant 2BR, 2BA cooperative apartment at fantastic price! Updated kitchen with quality appliances, parquet wood floors, great light! — \$39,900; also available 1BR with balcony & courtyard view — \$27,000; adorable efficiency with balcony & new IKEA-type kitchen—\$18,900. River Park Mutual Homes! CATHY CORMACK (202) 546-7000 ext. 265.

700 7th Street, SW—#803 1000 SF penthouse apartment! 1BR, table space balcony, cathedral ceilings, updated kitchen, garage parking space & Capitol view! \$120,000. CATHY CORMACK (202) 546-7000 ext. 265.

1245 4th Street, SW—Spacious, immaculate one-bedroom in renowned Tiber Island! Over 800 square feet, balcony, amenities. \$42,000! CATHY CORMACK (202) 546-7000 ext. 265.

1304 4th Street, SW—Chic, sunny 3-level cooperative townhouse! River Park Mutual Homes. 2-3 bedroom plus den, balcony, terrace, updated kitchen & more. \$84,900. Seller help may be possible for acceptable offer. CATHY CORMACK (202) 546-7000 ext. 265.

320 N Street, SW—Attractive 2-3 bedroom cooperative townhouse! River Park Mutual Homes! Two terraces, wood floors, great light, fully-equipped kitchen, den/study & laundry room! \$79,900. CATHY CORMACK (202) 546-7000, EXT. 265.

400 O Street, SW—#203 Attractive 2BR, 2BA condo apartment with upgrades galore plus balcony and garage parking! \$109,900. CATHY CORMACK (202) 546-7000, EXT. 265.



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